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A "SYMPOSIUM" ON THE "TEN BEST BOOKS FOR THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE."

The experience of men in the use of books is always valuable to themselves. It is much more valuable to those who are beginning to form their libraries and are doubtful as to the selections which they ought to make. A poor book used in the study of the Bible is worse than useless. It is positively injurious. It is likely to lead to the adoption of vicious methods or leave the student with shallow or incorrect conceptions lying at the basis of all his future work. The STUDENT has, therefore, sought to obtain from some scholarly ministers help on behalf of their less experienced brethren in this very line of the best books for Bible study. Some answers, which will be found full of interest, are herewith printed. The thanks of the readers of this journal are due to the writers who have made out these lists for the guidance and profit of all who desire to get and use the best helps in the study of God's Word.

From Prof. GEORGE H. GILBERT, Ph. D.

The ten books which I have found most helpful in the study of the Bible are, I should say :—

1. The Bible.
2. The Lexicon (Hebrew and Greek).
3. The Grammar (Hebrew and Greek).
4. The Greek Concordance.
5. The Greek Harmony of the Gospels.
6. R. D. Hitchcock's Lectures on Church History.
7. Edersheim's Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah.
8. Ewald's History of Israel.
9. Weiss' New Testament Introduction.
10. Weiss' New Testament Theology.

Chicago Theological Seminary.

From Rev. EMORY J. HAYNES, D. D.

If you mean *component parts* of the Bible, I should name Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, Isaiah, the Four Gospels, Romans, Corinthians, 1 and 2 Timothy.

If you mean books on the Bible, aside from the original Greek and Hebrew texts, I should say—

1. Lange's Commentaries.
2. Andrews' Life of our Lord (or Geikie, Farrar, or Hanna).
3. Smith's Bible Dictionary.
4. Cruden's Concordance.
5. Thomson's Land and the Book.
6. Wesley's Sermons.
7. Hodge's Systematic Theology.

8. Schaff's Histories (for the New Testament).
9. Stanley's Jewish Church, or Ewald's History of the Jews (for the Old Testament).
10. Any one of the several "Gazetteers" with maps.

Tremont Temple, Boston, Mass.

From Rev. J. L. JENKINS, D. D.

Ten books that have helped me in Bible study :—

1. Trench's Hulsean Lectures, "The Fitness of Holy Scripture for Unfolding the Spiritual Life of Men."
2. Mozley's Ruling Ideas in Early Ages.
3. Stanley's Jewish Church.
4. Ewald's History of Israel.
5. Stalker's Life of Jesus Christ.
6. Stalker's Life of St. Paul.
7. Stanley on Corinthians.
8. Lightfoot and Ellicott's commentaries ; all of them.
9. Maurice on St. John's Gospel and Epistles.
10. The Bible Commentary on the Old Testament.

I must add—

11. Bruce's The Training of the Twelve, and also his
12. Parabolic Teaching of Christ, and his
13. Galilean Gospel.

Pittsfield, Mass.

From Rev. Professor J. B. THOMAS, D. D.

I have been delayed in responding to your request, not so much by lack of time as by lack of wit concerning the problem suggested. I never had asked myself such a question, and, after some meditation, have not the slightest confidence in my ability to answer it in a way that will materially advance its solution. So much depends upon the attainments, the aims, and the temper of the individual, that in actual life such an appeal, to a pastor for instance, would be apt to receive widely different answers in single cases. In the absolute sense, I doubt if there are any "ten best."

I name, therefore (passing by concordance, dictionary, and Revised Version, which will occur to everybody), a few books which I think likely to be serviceable to the average Bible student, without assuming that they are pre-eminent or enough. I value highly—

1. The Cambridge Bible for Schools.
2. Edersheim's Life of Christ.
3. Thomson's Land and Book.
4. Arnot on Parables.
5. Trench on Miracles.
6. Conybeare and Howson's Paul.
7. Clark's Handbooks for Bible-Classes.
8. Westcott's Introduction to the Gospels.
9. Conder's Handbook of the Bible.
10. Geikie's Life of Christ.

Newton Centre, Mass.

From Rev. PHILIP A. NORDELL, D. D.

Without knowing particularly the grade of students for whom to select ten useful volumes on Bible study, it is somewhat difficult to make a wise choice. For a person of average intelligence in our churches or Sunday-schools, the ten following works will prove very serviceable :—

1. Geikie's Life of Christ.
2. Geikie's Hours with the Bible.
3. Vincent's Word-Studies in the New Testament.
4. Thomson's The Land and the Book.
5. Godet's Studies in the Gospels.
6. Godet's Studies in the Epistles.
7. Briggs' or Orelli's Messianic Prophecy.
8. Isaiah, by Driver, in "Men of the Bible" series.
9. Sears' The Heart of Christ, or The Fourth Gospel.
10. Farrar's Life and Work of St. Paul.

From the above list I have purposely excluded commentaries and books of reference with which each student can provide himself, according to his need and ability. There may be added to this list a recommendation to every one who wishes to obtain a larger and more thorough knowledge of the Bible to read diligently every month THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT STUDENT.

New London, Conn.